



January 19, 2018

Good afternoon. My name is Dirk Beccari and I am the Administrator for Consumer Direct Care Network, Behavioral Health Division. We are a Mental Health Center operating in Missoula, Ravalli County, Great Falls and Billings. I also supervise our Family Based Services which includes Targeted Case Management.

I want to thank the committee for continuing your objection to the rate cuts for such a significant period of time. It gave us an opportunity to put our case forward and be heard regarding the impact these cuts will have on our families. In fact, it looks like a little relief was given in light of this. The rate cuts seem to be around 3% for most services.

But, the TCM situation was not alleviated. In fact, it has become worse. TCM was not cut 2.99%. It was gutted—it went from \$19.45 per unit to \$8.19 per unit. Or approximately \$78 per hour to \$33 per hour. The proposed cut is almost 60%. **That's right 60%.** What service, business or any other entity or organization can remain the same or progress with a cut this drastic. What service or business can even survive?

It was my understanding that the original rate cut projected for TCM was 41%. You all objected to that. We all commented on that. We gave you reasons, had families testify at several of these hearing. The end result of all of our labor was that the rate cut increased almost 20 %. I didn't think we did such an awful job. I also don't recall any notice that indicated that DPHHS was contemplating these drastic either.

Targeted Case Management serves severely emotionally disturbed children from the neediest families. We help youths and their families' access services, navigate the complex mental health system, and link them to all necessary services. We help families get medication, apply for group homes, link them to mental health school services, and find the outpatient therapists. We are there for them through the hard times, the stressful times, and the chaotic times. We assist in preventing youths from going into higher and more expensive levels of care such as Shodair, Acadia or YBGR.

Without this service, worst case scenarios will happen. More youths will be in higher, unnecessary, and considerably more expensive levels of care. The poorest, neediest and most troubled of Montana's youths will suffer and our state will be worse for it.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask them or contact me by phone or e-mail. Thank you.

YOU'VE KNOWN US AS:



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